

KARYCZAK CRACKS 3-RUN HR, GLOD HITS 3-RUN HR

St. Aloysius Staves off Anne's Comeback in St. Bart Ball, 8-6

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

St. Aloysius maintained its supremacy in the Angels Division of the St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League by holding onto an 8-6, victory over Saints Division competitor St. Anne at Forest Road Park in Fanwood on June 30. The 5-1 victors, however, had to stave off a seventh-inning surge from the 5-4 Annies.

St. Aloysius totaled 12 hits, but only two were for extra bases, and it was Brian Glod, who did one of them in a big way with the three-run home run in the bottom of the second inning. Joe Negley added an RBI double and an RBI single. Veteran pitcher Tom Rutkowski helped his cause with a pair of singles and a pair of runs scored. George Balint (run scored) and Rob Barone each tapped a pair of singles, while Dom Favorito (two runs scored) rapped an RBI single. Peter Chemidlin had an RBI single,

Joe Romash singled and scored, and Marty Garcia scored once.

St. Anne totaled 13 hits, and Keith Karyczak provided the power with a three-run homer and a triple. Veterans Paul Morello and Brian Williams each had two singles and scored once, while Karl Grossmann singled twice. Chris Giordano went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Walt Patrylo (run scored) and Dave Weischnadle each singled, and Jack Kennedy scored once. Joe McEvoy had a stunning RBI triple.

Several outstanding plays were made, mostly from the shortstop position, and St. Al shortstop Barone was involved in nine putouts, which included a 1-6-3 (pitcher-to-short-to-first) double play (DP). St. Anne shortstop Patrylo initiated a short-to-second-to-first DP and added a spectacular grab in shallow centerfield. Anne's Giordano made a great running stab in leftfield, as did his counterpart Negley. Balint initiated a rare

third-to-first-to-home DP.

St. Al scored once in the bottom of the first when Chemidlin hopped an RBI single over second. During that inning, Anne second baseman Williams felt that he should have fielded a grounder that squeaked through for a base hit.

"I should have had that all the way," he said. "Bad play on my part."

The Als set up a rally in the second when Garcia walked, Balint singled and Brian Glod stepped to the plate. "Keep it going Brian! Down and hard! Wait for your pitch," shouted Chemidlin.

Glod blasted a three-run shot to deep centerfield that highlighted a five-run uprising.

"Nice hit Brian! Way to go," Chemidlin added.

Noticing that momentum was not in his team's corner, Anne's Morello suggested, "Come on guys! We got to hit. It's too quiet here."

Giordano added, "Let's wake up now! Don't wait until the last two innings!"

The Annie's bats were still slumbering.

St. Al's bats kept roaring, however, with two more runs in the fourth to seize an 8-0 lead when Favorito poked an RBI single and Negley slashed an RBI double. In the fifth, Rutkowski quelled an Anne rally when he scooped a grounder and fired to second to initiate the 1-6-3 DP.

"I saw two guys at the bag. I just threw it at the bag and hoped it worked," Rutkowski said humbly.

Noticing the shutout over five innings, Rutkowski's teammate Rich Polhamus commented, "You got the groove today. You are on."

McEvoy wobbled Rutkowski's groove a little bit in the sixth when he slapped his RBI triple to right, but the Annies really made things shaky for him in the seventh. Williams reached on an error, Patrylo singled and Giordano yanked an RBI single to left. Kennedy reached safely on a throwing error as Patrylo scored, then Karyczak cracked his three-run homer over the centerfielder's head to make the score, 8-6, with no outs. St. Al's defense settled down and got three of the next four Anne batters out.

St. Anne	000	001	5	6
St. Aloysius	150	200	x	8



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
DIVING BACK TO FIRST...Warren's Frank Rica dives back to first as Cranford first baseman Brendan Kane awaits the ball during the Cal Ripken District 12 quarterfinals at Gumbert Field in Westfield on July 3.

KANE HITS, SCORES; BRAWLEY HITS; NORTON SCORES

Warren 12s Startle Cougars In Ripken Quarterfinal, 7-2

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Warren starting pitcher Jack Stefurak and reliever Mark Ball, with the assistance of extremely fine defensive plays, combined to limit a strong-hitting Cranford team to just two singles and three walks en route to a 7-2 victory in the quarterfinal round of the 12-year-old Cal Ripken District 12 Tournament at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on July 3.

"Stefurak and Ball are gamers. They don't put a lot of guys on base. They throw strikes, and the defense supported them today," Warren Head Coach Glenn Mastrobattista said.

Cranford starting pitcher Pat Knight, who had tossed a gem of a game in a 12-2 victory over Westfield Silver earlier in the tournament, had trouble finding the strike zone, and once the Warren boys realized that, they did not offer any help. Knight issued five free passes and allowed four hits, which included two straight doubles early in the fourth inning, while striking out three, before Steve Savino came in to relieve.

"Patrick had a rare off day. He is usually one of our more polished pitchers. He was sick and didn't play last night. He had the flu. I didn't know if that was bugging him or not," Cougar Head Coach Joe Norton said. "Today, he had a little trouble finding the strike zone, but he gave it his all. He was gutsy. At this level, just like in the major leagues, you can't give too many guys free passes. Walks are going to come back to kill you every time, and that is what happened today."

"We can be disciplined but not all the time. A lot of times we will go after those high pitches. Today, we were disciplined, and we didn't help them out. We put some runners on base, and we made them pay in the end," coach Mastrobattista said.

The theme of the game began in the bottom of the first inning. Cougar Jamie Brawley singled and darted toward second on a hit-and-run play, but Warren right fielder Dave Giegerich grabbed the line drive and fired to first to complete a double play (DP). More of the same occurred in the second inning. After Cougar

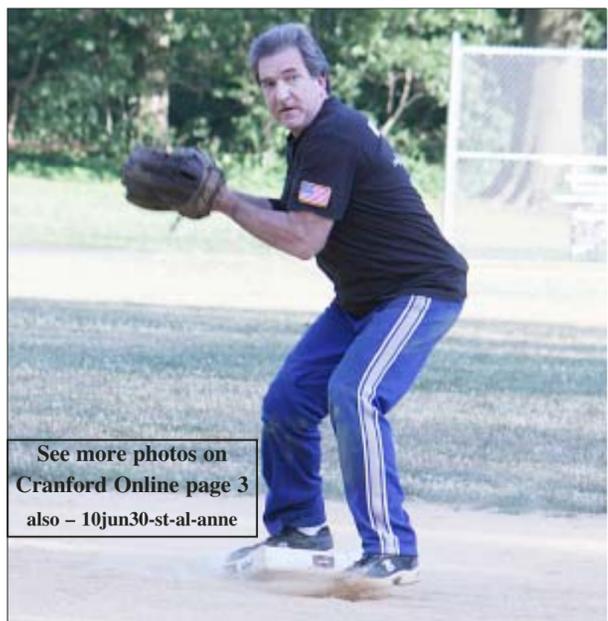
Brendan Kane singled, stole two bases and scored on a passed ball, shortstop Anthony Marino snagged a line drive on a hit-and-run and fired to first to record a second DP.

"We live by the sword, and we die by the sword. We are aggressive. We like to hit-and-run. Occasionally, we are going to run ourselves out of an inning with a line drive and a double play. It's worked for us a bunch of times, and when we play next week, we will do it again," coach Norton said.

"Double plays at 50-70 [distance between bases were set at 70 feet] are not often, and that was a backbreaker. They had some injuries, but we weren't taking them lightly. They have some good players," coach Mastrobattista said. "Our defense is what keeps us in games."

Warren plated three runs in the top of the second. Knight issued three straight walks. One runner scored on a wild pitch, then Frank Rica bounced a two-run ground-rule double over the right field fence. Two more walks and Nick Ugarte's RBI single in the

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
COMPLETING THE DOUBLE PLAY...St. Anne superstar second baseman Brian Williams steps on second and fires to first for a double play against St. Aloysius.

See more photos on Cranford Online page 3 also - 10jun30-st-al-anne

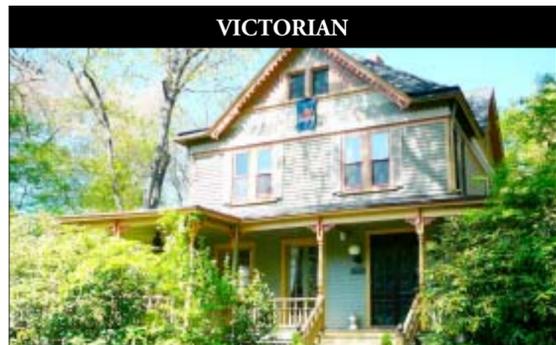
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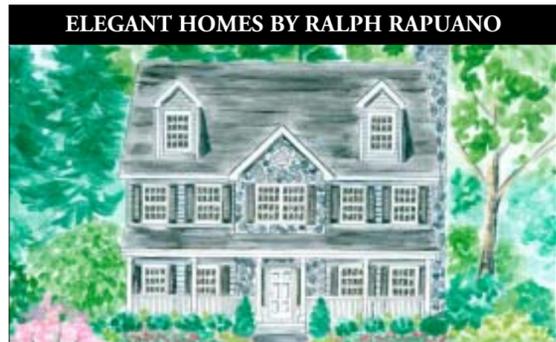
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